Railway ticket counters

1303. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all ticket counters selling IInd class tickets are located far away from the railway stations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to relocate them inside the railway stations and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Passenger amenities

1304. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Railway would have record earnings at the end of the current financial year by over Rs. 600 crores as compared to previous year; and

(b) if so, what amenities his Ministry proposes to provide to railway passengers by way of reduction in railway fare, hygienic food and retiring room facilities at the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Revised Target of earnings for current financial (2006-07) year have been fixed as Rs. 5657.81 crore which is more by Rs. 822.22 crore as compared to actual of Rs. 4835.59 for 2005-06.

(b) Ministry of Railway has proposed various discounts in fare at the time of presentation of Budget 2007-08 like reduction in fare by 2 to 8% in different classes, reduction in super fast charges, introduction of tourist tickets, reduction in daily ticket fare for non-suburban IInd Oridnary train and non-superfast Mail/Express trains.

Availability of tea/coffee, breakfast, standard meals and Rail Neer at tea stall/trolleys refreshment rooms at the rate approved by the Ministry

of Railways is also ensured. Railways ensure that the food items supplied to the passengers are as per the norms set for them which include quality, quantity and hygiene. Stern action like termination of license, imposition of fine and warning etc. is taken against defaulters as a deterrent measure.

Upgradation of retiring room including dormitories is a continuous process. It is proposed to upgrade about 2000 retiring rooms on Indian Railway through Public Private Participation (PPP). Improved furnishings aesthetic designs and modern amenities are proposed to be provided to the passengers.

Sale of forged railway tickets

1305. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of sale of forged railway tickets have been detected in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of actions taken, if any, based thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Cases of forged railway tickets come to notice from time to time. The persons detected travelling on forged railway tickets are handed over to police for further action as per the provisions of law. Strict disciplinary action is taken against the empolyees found conniving in this fraudulent practice, under Discipline and Appeal Rules. However, no separate statistics is maintained in this regard.

Modernisation of production units

1306. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to modernise its production units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detail of funds allocated for modernisation of its production units in the country during the last three years; and